

VERIFICATION OF UNUSUAL SIGHT RECORD FOR UTAH

Common Name: PALM WARBLER (WESTERN) Scientific Name: *Dendroica palmarum*Date: 9/29/88 Time: ABOUT 12:00
noon Length of time observed: < 2 minutes

Number: 1 Age: FALL PLUMAGE Sex: UNK

Location: FISH SPRINGS NLK

Latilong: FISH SPRINGS, #9

Elevation (if known): 4288'

Distance to bird: 10-20 YARDS

Light conditions: GOOD SUNLIGHT, FEW
CLOUDSOptical equipment: 10X50 BUSHNELL BINOCULARS
15-60X BAL DISCOVERER SCOPE

Weather: FAIR

Description: (Write a detailed description of the bird's appearance, including size, shape, plumage pattern, color, and any unique features.)

SMALLER THAN THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS AND HOUSE FINCHES IT WAS AROUND. HAVING A LOT OF WARBLER I.D. EXPERIENCE ON THE EAST COAST, IT WAS IDENTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AS A WARBLER; IT DID NOT HAVE THE BILL SHAPE OR SECRETIVE BEHAVIOR OF THE VIREOS. THE UPPERTAIL COVERTS + RUMP WERE OLIVE & APPEARED UNSTREAKED. THE UPPERPARTS WERE BROWNISH/GRAY HAVING A SOMEWHAT STREAKED APPEARANCE ON THE BACK. AT ONE ANGLE THE HEAD APPEARED TO BE BROWNER THAN THE BACK, GIVING A HINT OF A CAP, BUT A SOLID CAP WAS NOT READILY DISCERNIBLE. THERE WAS A DISTINCT LIGHT WHITE EYEBROW, NOT AN EYERING. THE WINGS APPEARED DARKER THAN THE UPPER BODY, NO WING BARS WERE SEEN. THE BREAST & UNDERBELLY WERE WHITISH & THERE APPEARED TO BE FAINT STREAKING ON THE UPPER BREAST. I DID NOT HAVE A FULL VIEW OF THE BREAST BECAUSE OF THE ANGLE IT WAS SITTING, BUT COULD SEE THE SIDES. THE UNDERTAIL COVERTS WERE DISTINCTLY YELLOW. THE COLOR CHANGE BETWEEN UNDERTAIL COVERTS & UNDERBELLY WAS ABRUPT, NO GRADUAL FADING FROM YELLOW TO WHITE COULD BE SEEN. WHEN SITTING ON THE TOP OF THE BRUSH, THE BIRD WAS VIGOROUSLY BOBBING/WAGGING ITS TAIL, NOT FLICKING. THE BIRD WAS SITTING FAIRLY UPRIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE BRUSH, AND DID NOT GIVE ANY SKULKING BEHAVIOR TYPICAL OF SOME WARBLERS.

NONE NOTICED

Behavior: TAIL BOBBING WHEN 'PISHED' TO THE TOPS OF BRUSH. SEEMED ABOUT AS SKITTISH AS THE WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS & HOUSE FINCHES AT THAT CLOSE RANGE.

Habitat: FLUSHED FROM CANAL BANK LINED WITH BULRUSH. THE AREA AROUND THE CANAL WAS PRIMARILY RABBITBRUSH/GREASEWOOD WITH SALTERGRASS BASE. THERE WAS MORE EXTENSIVE BULRUSH STANDS (DRY SLOUGHS) NEARBY.

What similar species might it have been and how were these eliminated: YELLOW UNDERTAIL COVERTS & TAIL BOBBING RULED OUT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. ORANGE-CROWNED WAS RULED OUT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF OLIVE-YELLOW ON UNDERPARTS & UPPER BACK & HEAD. ORANGE CROWNS ^{HAVE BEEN} ~~WAS~~ SEEN OFTEN HERE DURING MIGRATION, & THIS BIRD LOOKED NOTHING LIKE THESE OTHER ORANGE-CROWNS. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER WAS RULED OUT BECAUSE OF OVERALL BODY COLOR, LACK OF YELLOW ON BREAST, AND HAVING AN EYEBROW NOT AN EYERING.

What experience have you had with this and similar species: I HAVE OFTEN SEEN THE EASTERN RACE DURING FALL MIGRATION ON EAST COAST. I HAVE HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH VIRTUALLY ALL EASTERN WARBLERS IN BOTH SIGHT & VOICE I.D., AS WELL AS SOME EXPERIENCE WITH WARBLERS IN THE NORTHWEST. THE EASTERN RACE WAS SEEN USUALLY IN ASSOCIATION WITH WET/MARSHY AREAS, PRIMARILY IN LOW SHRUBS AWAY FROM THE TALLER TREE CANOPY.

Books, illustrations, and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE WAS USED FOR INITIAL IDENTIFICATION, BOTH BY PICTURE & WRITTEN DESCRIPTION.

'GOLDEN GUIDE' BY ROBBINS, ET AL WAS USED TO VERIFY THE IDENTIFICATION & TO FIND ANY OTHER POSSIBLE BIRDS IT MAY HAVE BEEN.

Significance of record in this area or the state: CONSIDERED A PROVISIONAL SPECIES IN THE LATILONG STUDY

Additional material: (attach drawing, photograph, tape recording if available)

NONE

Description from notes taken at time of sighting _____ notes made later X from memory _____

Observer: JOE ENGLER

Signature: Joseph D. Engler

Address: FISH SPRINGS NWR

Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE

Date prepared: 10/25/88

Return this form to: Ella Sorensen
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